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Espionage Must Advertise

As a *New Yorker* cartoon, it might work: In a crowded university field house, exhausted students survey a series of recruiting booths: "Interfraternity Council," says a sign over one booth. "Student Government," says another. And the third booth is festooned with red, white and blue bunting and the seal of the American Central Intelligence Agency. "Hey, kid!" shouts a desperate CIA recruiter to an uninterested-looking student. "Want to be a spy?"

Only in a cartoon would an intelligence agency conduct its recruiting that way, but officials at Harvard University have forbidden the CIA to approach its students on any more discreet basis. Harvard is especially concerned about recruiting efforts aimed at its foreign students. The universi-

ty's president, Derek Bok, told a Senate committee recently that covert CIA recruiting threatens "the integrity and independence of the academic community."

Even if one accepts Mr. Bok's assumption that voluntary affiliation with the CIA constitutes academic treason, his concern seems to be misplaced. As long as the CIA exists—and no one has seriously questioned the need for some degree of intelligence-gathering—it will seek to attract to its ranks intelligent and able young people such as those who populate the Harvard campus, and it will necessarily do so in a "covert" way. If Mr. Bok's message is that no self-respecting student should become a spy, he should seek to impress that—dubious—principle on the students, not on the CIA.

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